

Attorney Docket No.: 88742.71
Application No.: 10/647,173

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2. Response to Restriction Requirement (3 pp)

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In re Patent Application of :)	Confirmation No.: 1542
)	
Billy D. Fellers)	Group Art Unit: 3653
)	
Application No.: 10/647,173)	Examiner: Joseph C. Rodriguez
)	
Filed: August 22, 2003)	
)	
For: Process for Extracting and)	
Purifying Naturally Occurring)	
Zeolite)	

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 22, 2005, Applicant hereby provisionally elects and traverses the election requirement. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of said requirement. As the deadline for the shortened statutory period for response (May 22, 2005) fell on the weekend, the period for response is extended to May 23, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

SUMMARY OF ELECTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required Applicant under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect one of eight groups of claims:

1. Claims 1-45, 54 and 81-89 drawn to multiple processes for extraction and purification of zeolite from a zeolite ore containing other minerals phases.

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2. Claims 46-53, drawn to multiple processes for extracting and purifying natural zeolite from zeolite ore.

3. Claims 55, drawn to a process for separation of mineral phases from a natural mineral ore composition.

4. Claims 56-80, drawn to multiple methods for classification of a particulate mineral compound.

5. Claim 90, drawn to a method for separation of mineral phases with variations in hydration properties from a natural mineral ore composition.

6. Claim 91, drawn to a composition.

7. Claim 92, drawn to a composition.

8. Claim 93, drawn to a composition.

ELECTION

In the event that the election requirement is not withdrawn, Applicant hereby provisionally elects the claims of group 1, claims 1-45, 54 and 81-89 which the Examiner describes as drawn to multiple processes for extraction and purification of zeolite from a zeolite ore containing other minerals phases, with traverse.

TRAVERSAL

The Examiner has required Applicant under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect one of eight groups of claims as indicated above. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's requirement to elect a species. If a generic claim is allowed as a result of the examination process, Applicant should be entitled to consideration of claims to

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unelected species. MPEP § 809.02(a). Thus, the non-elected claims should be allowed if a generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, it is thus respectfully requested that all claims be allowed to be prosecuted in the same application.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Dated: May 23, 2005

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